

The Great Storm Tour

At the height of its prosperity, Galveston was devastated by the "greatest natural disaster to hit the United States".

September 8, 1900 changed history forever.

In a powerful 30 minute documentary, experience the Island's beauty, families of influence, and a future rich with promise. Then suddenly, nature savagely kills over 6,000 people, crushing homes and buildings. Visit the sites, hear words of survivors, the songs of the orphans before they perished...and experience Galveston's invincible spirit as it raises the grade of the island, builds the Seawall, and starts over. See the Crucifix that stood alone, the makeshift morgues, and the cemetery that gave up its dead. And hear stories of rescues along the Strand. The Great Storm is something you will never forget.



4 hours (with lunch) Coach plus light to moderate walking

The Ghosts of Galveston

Thousands perished on the Island, but many souls never left...

At St. Mary's Cathedral a Bishop still chants in the night. A hotel by the sea has a long-time guest – although she hung herself years ago in the tower.

On the wall of a building is the ghostly face of a man, while a dead Colonel assaults residents of his house. Civil War soldiers march, and bodies rest after floating from their graves. Letters of unrequited love revealed by a ghost in the attic, a gentleman murdered for his winnings who still appears in his finery ... churches, shops, houses, hotels – homes to the souls of the past, still walking amongst us.



3 1/2 hours (no lunch) Coach plus moderate walking



The Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau offers FREE services to travel professionals and group leaders planning overnight trips to Galveston. Some of the many FREE services include: Hotel Rate Proposals, Sample Tour Itineraries, Videos and Welcome Packets. For more information, call the Group Tour Department at (866) 505-4456.

For general information on Galveston Island, please visit our website at www.galvestoncvb.com or contact our Visitors Center at (888) GAL-ISLE

Exploring Galveston Island is a natural addition to a cruise vacation; Special discounts are available to cruise passengers - for more information, visit our website at www.galvestoncvb.com/specialoffers



For general information or to book your next Galveston experience contact Coach USA Tour Desk

at (800) 334-4441 ext. 242

Tours may be customized for private groups and include lunch or dinner.

Should you want to stay on historic Galveston Island, we have Special Hotel Rates for tour participants.
(Ask about staying at a Haunted Hotel)

Participating hotels include:

The Tremont House
Hotel Galvez
Harbor House

For group reservations or more information
call (800) 334-4441 ext. 242

They say . . . Time is of the Essence



Now's the time to see the essence of Galveston

The Romance and Splendor of the Victorian Era

Proud and beautiful, the opulence of 1890 Victorian architecture still graces Galveston Island. From the Grand 1894 Opera House to palaces, mansions and gingerbread cottages, Galveston relives the decadence of the Old South.

Residences designed by the famed architect Nicholas Clayton, house silks and satins, embroidered tapestries, jeweled glass and onyx fireplaces.

Stroll the Historic Strand, with the largest collection of cast iron-fronted Victorian office buildings in the U.S., now shops of antiques and sweets, collectibles, books, and eclectic cafes.



5 hours (with lunch) Coach - moderate walking

Historical Island Tour



The essence of Galveston lives in the blood of its history, from the infamous pirate Jean LaFitte, to the elaborate mansions of the Island's rich. Moody Mansion, Ashton Villa and the Bishop's Palace – architecturally

magnificent and lavishly ornate – housed those who graced the Grand Opera, played on the beaches, and attended services at splendid churches. Norman design and Tiffany glass, Nicholas Clayton and Victorian gingerbread, and stories of the horrors of the 1900 Great Storm – all are the essence of Galveston. Relive the richness of its past.

2 hours (no lunch) Coach only - no walking

Trains and Boats and Planes Oh, My!

Rumpled sheets on old bunks, dusty smells of lounge car sofas, and distant voices from the past - the largest collection of antique railcars in the Southwest relives the life of the early traveler.

Time stands still inside the Union Passenger Depot, while footsteps echo the bustling excitement of the Island's rail passengers.

Reliving another era, the 1877 Tall Ship *Elissa* opens her cabins and decks to the romance and danger of the high seas. The "Ellis Island of the West", Galveston was the Port of Entry for over 133,000 immigrants, whose names may be searched in the Seaport Museum's database. Is your ancestor on the list?

Years later, flimsy contraptions inspired the notion of flight. With over 30 vintage aircraft, the Lone Star Flight Museum celebrates the Age of Flight from 1911 to the exciting Space Age.

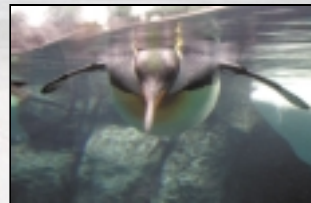


*5 hours (with lunch) Coach and extensive walking
(Tall Ship Elissa does not have wheelchair access)*

The Magic of Moody Gardens

In primitive rainforests of exotic plants, birds and parrots, tropical fish and butterflies, the mysteries of nature croak, slither and flutter.

Housed in spectacular pyramids, Moody Gardens is a fascinating world, with an IMAX 3D Theater, lush gardens, the Discovery Pyramid of scientific exhibits, and a 1.5 million gallon aquarium teeming with rare fish, seahorses, penguins, and stingrays. Seals dive and play, while ominous sharks lurk below. Cruise aboard the Colonel Paddlewheel Boat, or splash in the blue lagoons of sandy Palm Beach. Dining and shopping is located throughout.



6 hours - moderate walking

Galveston's Historic Churches



Missionaries arrived in the 1830's to establish their faith. Many churches were built, some simple and rustic, and others glorious architectural expressions of Holy admiration.

Each has a story – and amidst statues, Tiffany stained glass, one of the world's most magnificent organs, marble and hand-carved altars, there is the miracle of a Crucifix that survived the Great Storm, the

burial of a church minister beneath the sanctuary, midnight chanting, and a mysterious presence today. See and feel the history inside the Island's many houses of worship.



4 hours (no lunch) Coach and minimal walking

Magnificent Mansions of Old

Home to some of the wealthiest families in the country, Galveston Island was the site of beautiful mansions, financial empires and family intrigue. Completed in 1895, the interior of the Moody Mansion was designed by Pottier & Stymus of New York whose clients included the White House. A powerful Texas family, the Moodys controlled a huge financial empire.

Even more magnificent is the Bishop's Palace, completed in 1893. Built by Colonel Walter Gresham, a railroad magnate and politician, the Palace was eventually purchased by the Galveston/Houston Catholic Diocese for the residence of Bishop Christopher Byrne. Jeweled glass, award-winning fireplaces, gargoyles, dragons and angels make it a national architectural landmark. Also splendid is the antebellum Ashton Villa, built before the Civil War in 1859. Not only is the home elegant, but the stories of Miss Bettie, are most beguiling.



3 1/2 hours (plus 1 hour for lunch) - moderate walking